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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/090,822

03/06/2002

Kenji Furuya

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7590

11/19/2004

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EXAMINER

DANG, KHANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2111

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/090,822	Applicant(s) FURUYA ET AL.	
	Examiner Khanh Dang	Art Unit 2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nozuyama (5,862,359).

At the outset, it is noted that similar claims will be grouped together to avoid repetition in explanation.

As broadly drafted, these claims do not define any structure that differs from Nozuyama.

With regard to claim 1, Nozuyama discloses a semiconductor device (10, for example) comprising: a plurality of function blocks (13, 14, 15, and 16, for example); a plurality of buses (22, 23, for example), each of which is respectively connected to one of the plurality of function blocks (13, 14, 15, 16); a plurality of control signal lines (EN12-EN31, see also column 6, lines 1-46), each of which is respectively connected to one of the plurality of function blocks (13-16); a main bus (21, connected to CPU 11); a

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bus control unit (CPU 11) connected to the main bus (21); a bus division control unit (including 3 and 4) located between the plurality of buses and the main bus (21), for connecting one of the plurality of buses (22, 23) to the main bus (21) and transmitting a control signal to a corresponding one of the plurality of control signal lines (EN12-EN31, see also column 6, lines 1-46) in accordance with a decoded result of information supplied from the bus control unit via the main bus (21), thereby controlling a corresponding one of the plurality of function blocks and controlling communication between at least two functional blocks (see at least column 3, lines 18-23; column 7, lines 10-19). It is also clear that the signal lines in Nozuyama are separate from one another.

With regard to claim 2, the bus division control unit comprises: a decoder unit (4) for decoding the information supplied from the bus control unit (11) via the main bus (21) and generating the control signal; and a bus dividing unit (see Figs. 2A/2B, column 6, lines 1-46) for connecting one of the plurality of buses to the main bus, in accordance with a decoded result of the decoder unit.

With regard to claim 3, the bus division control unit (including 3 and 4) connects one of the plurality of buses (22, 23) to the main bus (21), in accordance with a decoded result of address information (address of the functional unit that the CPU needs to access must be always provided by the CPU) transmitted from the bus control unit via the main bus (see at least column 3, lines 18-23; column 7, lines 10-19).

With regard to claim 4, at least two of the plurality of function blocks (13, 14, for example) shares one (22, for example) of the plurality of buses, and the bus division

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control unit (including 3 and 4) controls a transfer operation between the two function blocks (13, 14) via the one (22) of the plurality of buses in response to a transfer request signal.

With regard to claim 5, it is clear that the bus division control unit (including 3 and 4) simultaneously transmits a write-enable signal to one of the two function blocks and a read-enable signal to the other one of the two function blocks (in Nozuyama, as discussed above, the communication, i.e., read/write, between functional blocks 13 and 14 is enabled by an enable signal from bus switch 3; blocks 13 and 14 receive the signal simultaneously and one of the functional blocks (13, 14) reads the other one of blocks (13, 14) writes.

With regard to claim 6, it is clear that in order to enable communication between the blocks (13, 14, for example), the source (either 13 or 14) and the destination (the other of 13 or 14) must be specified/determined.

With regard to claim 7, as in any master/initiator and slave/target relationship, in Nozuyama, the CPU has to send request access (by specifying the address of the target or functional unit) for processing before the actual transfer request may be processed by the bus division control unit including the bus switch 3 and the decoder 4.

With regard to claim 8, it is clear that when access request to blocks 13, 14, for example is granted and transfer is processed, the CPU 11 can make another access request to functional blocks 15 and 16 while the transfer is in progress.

With regard to claim 9, in Nozuyama, the CPU can make either a READ or WRITE request to the functional blocks, and the bus switch (3) and decoder (4) must be

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able to recognized the type of request in accordance to the principle of computer architecture so that a suitable communication direction between the CPU and the plurality of functional blocks can be performed.

With regard to newly added claims 11-14, see discussion above, since these newly presented claims, as drafted, are even broader than the originally presented claims. Therefore, no further explanation/argument is deemed necessary.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicants' arguments filed 10/08/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

At the outset, Applicants are reminded that claims subject to examination will be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55 (Fed. Cir. 1997). In fact, the "examiner has the duty of police claim language by giving it the broadest reasonable interpretation." *Springs Window Fashions LP v. Novo Industries, L.P.*, 65 USPQ2d 1862, 1830, (Fed. Cir. 2003). Applicants are also reminded that claimed subject matter not the specification, is the measure of the invention. Disclosure contained in the specification cannot be read into the claims for the purpose of avoiding the prior art. *In re Sporck*, 55 CCPA 743, 386 F.2d, 155 USPQ 687 (1986).

With this in mind, the discussion will focus on how the terms and relationships thereof in the claims are met by the references. Response to any limitations that are not

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in the claims or any arguments that are irrelevant and/or do not relate to any specific claim language will not be warranted.

**The 102 Rejection:**

Applicants argue that " Nozuyama teaches a decoder 4 that is an instruction decoder for decoding instruction signals, and that does not decode address information, as is recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention." Contrary to Applicants' argument, in Nozuyama, a decoder 4 is provided, which serves to a control signal (supplied from the CPU, for example) which requires 2 of the divisional buses 21-23 in the operation of the transfer bus, and control the bus switch circuit such that only the divisional buses are connected to each other at one place on the basis of the decoded output. See column 3, lines 18-23, and column 7, lines 10-19. Note that as in any master/initiator and slave/target relationship, in Nozuyama, the CPU has to send request access by specifying the address of the target or functional unit for processing before the actual transfer request may be processed by the bus division control unit including the bus switch 3 and the decoder. It is clear that the addresses of the functional units connected to 2 of the divisional buses 21-23 that the CPU needs to access must be always provided by the CPU and decoded by the decoder 4 to allow connections to the functional units via 2 of the divisional buses connected to each other. For example, as illustrated in the acknowledged prior art of Fig. 1, the address of functional blocks 12 must be always decoded by the decoder+latch so that only the functional block that has the address matched the address specified by the control unit

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can establish communication with the control unit. Another example is the disclosure of Werthheim et al., cited as relevant art in the previous Office Action. Werthheim et al. discloses a plurality of functional blocks interconnected by a bus, a switch controller partitioning the bus into a plurality of bus segment and controlling the two of the bus segments so that the two bus segment can be interconnected or isolated in response to control information representative of the source and the destination of each bus transaction. The switch controller can also control the state of the switches to permit two or more bus transaction to be performed simultaneously. Werthheim et al. also discloses that the decoder 162 receives the address bus and control signals which indicate the source of and the destination each bus transaction. See column 5, lines 25-27, for example. Still another example is the disclosure of Foo cited below. Foo discloses an address decoder 66. See at least Fig. 5 and description thereof. In response to Applicants' argument regarding the newly added claims 1—14, see discussion above, since these newly presented claims, as drafted, are even broader than the originally presented claims. Therefore, no further argument is deemed necessary. Applicants also argue that Nozuyama “fails to teach supplying a control signal to a corresponding one of the control signal lines (which are connected to the respective function blocks) in response to a decoded result of the address information, as is recited in amended claim 1 of the present invention.” Contrary to Applicants' argument, it is clear from the discussion above and at least Fig. 1 of Nozuyama that a control signal is supplied from the bus switch 3 to a corresponding one of the control



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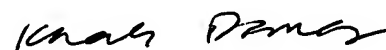
signal lines or bus segments (22, 23, for example) which are connected to the functional blocks (13, 14, 15, 16, for example) in response to the output of the address decoder 4.

U.S. Patent No. 6,662,256 to Foo is cited as relevant art. Foo discloses an address decoder 66. See at least Fig. 5 and description thereof.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Khanh Dang at telephone number 703-308-0211.



Khanh Dang  
Primary Examiner